

Subject: Favorable for HB0455: requiring Maryland veteran's cemeteries to have braille flags

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From: Will Hendrick

8205 Kramer Court, Glen Burnie MD

will@willhendrick.com

To: The House Health and Government Operations Committee

Please vote in favor of HB0455. A bill requiring veteran cemeteries in Maryland to have braille flags available.

I enlisted in the military in 1996. I was trained as an Xray technician. I left the military in 1998.

I lost my vision in 2016. I went to the Maryland Division of Rehabilitation Services to learn the skills of blindness. I learned how to read and write Braille and Braille is very useful to me. In 2024, I received additional training from the Blindness Rehabilitation center which is attached to the Heinz Veteran's Affairs Medical Center in Illinois.

A Braille flag would be very useful in Maryland veteran's cemeteries because blind people who visit the cemetery could feel what the flag really looks like as well as reading the Braille on it. It would be very meaningful for me to see that flag if I visited veteran's cemeteries. I would also like my family to have a braille flag of their own to remember me by.

Please vote in favor of HB0455. Today the technology to make a Braille tactile flag is available. Blind veterans deserve to be remembered with a Braille flag.